

holding either end of a twisted sheet or blanket, and they're rocking this baby calmly, just as if they were at home.

**MS:** What are your long-range concerns for MSF's work in the Kosovo area?

**JO:** We can medicalize what is essentially a political crisis, and we have to be careful we don't do that. People come across the border and they have nightmares, tremors, tachycardia. You can focus on the syndrome—if you will, post-traumatic stress disorder—and these are the symptoms of that syndrome. But the reality is

that these are also the symptoms of a political crime. People's physical suffering is a consequence of a political crime, and the resolution to that is not always lorazepam. The resolution to that is justice. People need to know that their problems are being dealt with on more than just a technical level. From a medical human perspective, MSF's role is to focus on the human issues and stick to the truth.

**MS:** And from your personal perspective?

**JO:** MSF has been a vehicle for my ideals, and it's the right place for me right now.

## On the net: student's science exam answers

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This information came over the Internet some years ago. It purports to be the answers given by students in science exams around the world. It came with the comment that "it is truly astonishing what weird science our young scholars can create under the pressure of time and grades." I was unable to trace the author, but as the work deserves wider dissemination, I present here the answers of most interest to a medical audience.

### General

"The body consists of three parts—the brainium, the borax, and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax, the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity the bowls, of which there are five—a, e, I, o, and u."

### Chemistry

A supersaturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold."

"To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube."

### Eyes and nose

"To remove dust from the eye: pull the eye down over the nose."

"For nosebleeds, put the nose lower than the body until the heart stops."

"For a cold: use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat."

### First aid

"For fainting: rub the person's chest or, if a lady, rub her arm above the head instead. Or put the head between the knees of the nearest doctor."

"For asphyxiation: apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead."

"For drowning: climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial perspiration."

"For dog bite: put the dog away for several days. If he has not recovered, then kill it."

### Cardiovascular

"The three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, veins, and caterpillars."

"Blood flows down one leg and up another."

### Gastrointestinal

"The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Alabama."

### Orthopedics

"The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch meat on."

### Reproductive medicine

"Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull."

"To prevent contraception, wear a condominium."

"Many women believe that an alcoholic binge will have no effects on the unborn fetus, but that is a large misconception."

### Hematology

"Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative."

### Respiration

"When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire."

"Respiration consists of two acts, first inspiration, then expectoration."